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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 10/549,799  
Applicant : HERRMANN et al.  
Filed : November 21, 2005  
TC/A.U. : 1623  
Examiner : Crane, Lawrence E.

Docket No. : 2970-125  
Customer No. : 06449  
Confirmation No. : 7706

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION AND AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed May 21, 2007, please enter the amendments and remarks contained on the following pages. .

**Amendments to the Abstract** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** begin on page 3 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 12 of this paper.

**A copy of the Preliminary Amendment** filed September 19, 2005 is attached following page 15.